



NEWSLETTER

December, 1979.

#### A.S.D.C. Council Meeting

Arrangements are in hand for The Council to meet during the A.D.A. Convention in Hobart. Any member who has a matter he/she desires Council to discuss should write to the Federal Secretary, (Dr. Tom Mackay) 8 The Centre, Forestville, N.S.W. 2087. Also, the Branch's member of Council should be fully briefed on the matter.

#### The President's Column

During Kevin Allen's absence overseas I have had the responsibility of being your representative. Fortunately due to Kevin's and Tom Mackay's good organisation there have been very few ripples and life has progressed satisfactorily for the Society.

It is noteworthy that the Australian Dental Journal decided to devote a Special Issue to Dentistry for Children in this, 'The Year of the Child'. The 'Special Issue' covers a broad range of important topics in Papers contributed by a variety of Authors, the majority of whom, it is pleasing to find, happen to be members of the Society. There can be no doubt that this Special Issue has been very well received and the Journal Editor and the staff are to be congratulated on, what can be considered, a very successful project.

An item of note on the federal level arose as a result of enthusiasm of a Branch to alter the Constitution. I believe that this is a desirable and healthy ideal, however in order for such a diverse and dispersed society such as ours to communicate effectively it is essential to work through the Federal Council. You as members pay a significant proportion of your subscription to the administration and functioning of the Federal Council. Thus it is impera-

tive that normal procedure be adhered to when important proposals come up for consideration; no matter what 'urgency rating' any individual may wish to give it.

An ideal opportunity for suggestions to be raised will be in Hobart, when I hope to see as many members as possible.

The A.S.D.C. is rapidly changing from infancy to a vigorous adolescence. This is an exciting stage for such a young society and one which offers many challenges, not the least of which is the International Conference to be held in Melbourne Feb.21-24, 1983. Fortunately the initial planning is well advanced, thanks to the foresight, unobtrusive hard work and dedication of Roger Hall. But, we will need to exploit the many talents of all members in all States no matter how far away from Melbourne, in order to make this conference one truly International standing.

The A.S.D.C. must develop very rapidly to cope with the challenges of the near future; if these can be met within the framework of the Constitution, we will mature as a cohesive, integrated and responsible society.

Arthur Telford.  
Vice President.

From the Federal Secretary.

Comments have been received from some branches regarding 'The employment of Dental Therapists in Private Practice'. When all the branches have sent in their comments these will be considered by Federal Council.

Replies have been received from all State Dental Boards (except N.S.W.) in response to requests for their requirements for recognition of Paedodontics as a Speciality.

Western Australia and Queensland have Specialist Registers and DO register Paedodontics as a Speciality. Victoria has a Specialist Register but Paedodontic is NOT included in the list of the Specialities which are recognised.

A.C.T. has no Specialist Register at present, but the Board has a recommendation before the Minister that Paedodontics, among other specialities, be recognised.

South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory do not have Specialist Registers.

T.C. Mackay.

South Australian Branch

The last meeting of the year was held in late October. Two extremely interesting talks were presented on a subject close to the hearts of all our members....'Taxation'.

Mr. Terry Evans, a lawyer and the husband of one of our members, spoke about 'The Family Trust'. He outlined its history, from feudal times through to the present and briefly discussed the possible future status of trusts with the Taxation Department.

Mr. Brian Harmer, an accountant, enlightened us about 'Tax evasion and the consequences'. He also discussed fairly fully the poorly understood rights of the taxpayer with respect to appeals against taxation assessment.

The Branch congratulates Dr. Bruce Tidswell (its first President) on his election as President of the S.A. Branch of the A.D.A. in 1979/80 and wish him every success in his year of office.

Another member of our A.S.D.C. Branch Dr. Ian Watson, now Immediate Past President of the A.D.A. (S.A. Br.)

is to be warmly complimented on the way he has fulfilled the duties and responsibilities of President in a busy and difficult year.

Congratulations also to Dr. Joe Verco, our Branch Vice-President, on his election to the State Council of A.D.A. (S.A. Branch). With Dr. David Blaikie, a former member of our branch, being elected Senior Vice-President of A.D.A. (S.A. Branch), it looks as though the kids may be taking over.

Dr. Kevin Allen, the Society's National President, and a member of this branch has recently returned from Study Leave. Some of the places Kevin visited included Budapest, - to attend the meeting of the International Association of Dentistry for Children - Dallis - for the American Dental Association Congress - Iowa, where he met up with Dr. Stephen Wei, an Adelaide graduate, and Los Angeles where he had time to talk with Dr. Tom Barber (the Guest Lecturer at the Society's Clinical Convention in June). Our branch will be looking forward to our first meeting next year when Kevin will be presenting a talk about his study leave.

Plans for 1980 have almost been completed. Our meeting night will be changed to a Tuesday to enable those of our members who are on State A.D.A. Council to attend our meetings.

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Tues, March 11th | Dr. Kevin Allen.     |
| Tues, April 29th | Dr. Ken Brown,       |
|                  | 'Forensic Dentistry' |
| Tues, June 24th  | Clinical Forum.      |
| Tues, Aug. ?th   | Dr. John McIntyre,   |
|                  | 'Communication in    |
|                  | Dentistry'           |

Plus another Country Conference.

Following the success of the Tanunda Country Conference in 1978, it has been decided to organise another. The tentative date is Saturday/Sunday 25th & 26th October, with the venue and speakers to be finalised. Further information will be published early next year.

John Kibble.

### West Australian Branch

The proceedings of the Branch for 1979 came to a conclusion with the Annual General Meeting and Dinner at the Sheraton-Perth Hotel on Wednesday, November 7th. Members and their partners firstly enjoyed a fine buffet meal, and were then addressed by Professor Bill Macdonald, from the Department of Child Health of the University of Western Australia. His talk, appropriately titled, 'Teething Troubles' was very well received. It was followed by an interesting and lively discussion period.

Members then adjourned for a short business meeting, with the main item of business being the election of the officers for 1980. The following were elected:

President: Laurie Bartlett.  
 Vice President: David Neesham.  
 Secretary-  
 Treasurer: Alistair Devlin.  
 Committee  
 Members: John Hands.  
                   Peter Neesham.  
                   Des Kailis

Planning for the 1980 programme is now well advanced. A theme of 'Traumatic Injuries' has been adopted, and this will form the basis of three meetings;

March 19th - This first meeting will consider Aetiology and Emergency treatment.  
 June 18th - Endodontic Aspects.  
 August 20th - Final Restorations.  
 The final meeting for the year will be the Annual General Meeting and Dinner in November.

The Branch is keenly supporting our Federal Councillor, Des Kailis, in his efforts to improve the teaching of Children's Dentistry in the University of W.A.'s Dental Curriculum. The Dental School will be providing dental care to children of the Highgate and North Perth Primary Schools. The first step in this project is the acquisition of a bus, and vigorous fund raising efforts are now underway to finance this vehicle. The bus will be used to transport the children between their schools and the Dental School.

Alistair Devlin.

### Victorian Branch

Our fourth and last Dinner Meeting for the year was held on September 6th. Members Dr. Clarke and Dr. Rogers, both General Practitioners working outside the fringe metropolitan area, talked briefly though quite divergently on their attitudes to living and working in a semi-rural environment. Their comments were entertaining and well directed at the largely urban audience, and set the mood for our Principal Speaker, Mr. Michael Dugan, a respected and prolific author of Children's books, who lives here in Melbourne. Tracing the development of children's literature from patronizing, if not disreputable, beginnings overseas and in Australia through to its present form, he then proceeded to give us insight into how an author would conceive and develop an idea for a children's books. He illustrated this in his own experience by reading a chapter from his latest, and soon to be released, children's novel. It was a penetrating, first-hand account of how skilful authors 'tune-in' to a child's way of thinking, and a good message was contained for all those who would wish to do likewise in their contact with children.

Our last function for the year was our Annual General Meeting cum Dinner held on November 10th at the home of our President, Dr. Pam Daniel. This was a very relaxed and informal wind-up to our busy year's activities. At the Meeting the following Office-bearers were elected unopposed:

President: Dr. John Wilde.  
 Vice President: Dr. Eva Berger.  
 Secretary-

Treasurer: Dr. Lloyd Fennell.

Our programme for next year is finalized, and will comprise Meetings (not always with dinner) on Thursdays:

March 6th ) Nature and treatment  
 May 1st ) of Dental Caries  
 July 3rd ) Dental Materials in  
                   Childrens Dentistry  
 Sept. 4th ) Genetics and Dentistry  
 Also a Mini-Talk at each Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be on November 14th, and the Day Meeting

on 'Dental Diseases in Children', to be held again at the Therapy School, will be on Monday, June 30th; the four Speakers booked for that day are an Oral Pathologist, one on Oral Medicine, a Periodontist, and a Microbiologist speaking on the 'End of the Antibiotic Era' as we continue the indiscriminate use of such preparations in disease. We look forward to a programme next year equally as busy and successful as this year, and wish every other Branch a most successful year ahead and good luck in promoting the case of Dentistry for Children into the 80s.

John Wilde.

#### Queensland Branch

The recently elected Executive for 1980 is as follows:

President: John Prentice  
Secretary: Pat Comiskey  
Committee Member: John Jago

At the October Meeting, Mrs. Yvonne Webb, Lecturer in Dietetics at the Queensland Institute of Technology, delivered a most interesting informal talk, on "Sugar". She discussed its food value, and emphasised how the amount of sugar consumed by the average person is far higher than would be considered desirable, due to the sugar "hidden" in prepared foods.

Of particular interest is a Special Meeting which was held recently to discuss a document produced by five members of the Society entitled "A Statement on Consultative Services in Dentistry for Children in Queensland". This statement was prepared for presentation to the State Council of the A.D.A. (Q'land Branch) to support the case for the establishment of Dental Units at the Childrens' Hospitals in the State. At the request of the authors of the Statement, the Special Meeting was convened to give the Society the opportunity to review the statement and thus formally to gain the Society's support to the document. As was the prerogative of the meeting in the circumstances, the wording of the Statement was amended where necessary so that the thoughts expressed were, in fact, acceptable to the members of the society collectively i.e. to those from private general practice and to those from government practice as well as to

those who had compiled the original document. The reviewed statement was completed in time to be presented to the next A.D.A. Branch Council meeting.

P.C. Comiskey.

#### N.S.W. Branch.

Our Branch activities for 1979 were concluded at the Annual General Meeting held at Sydney University on September 18th when the following were elected office bearers for 1980:-

President: Dr. T.C. Mackay.  
Secretary: Dr. R. Toll.  
Treasurer: Dr. J. Lockwood.  
Committee Man: Dr. R. Moore.

After dinner at this meeting two of our members gave short presentations; Dr. Ian McWilliam spoke on 'Intra-Osseous Anaesthesia, A New Technique'. And Dr. Bill Winspear discussed and demonstrated 'Some Applications of Hypnosis in Childrens' Dentistry'.

Members, wives and friends attended an end of the year social evening on Friday 23rd November at the Royal Motor Yacht Club, Double Bay. I am assured a most convivial time was enjoyed by all present.

Dates for N.S.W. Branch General Meetings are -

March 18th- Nutrition  
May 20th - Relative Analgesia-  
Controversies.  
July 22nd- Restorative Dentistry  
and Materials.  
Sept. 23rd - Trauma to Permanent  
Anterior Teeth.

A.S.D.C. members will soon receive a detailed brochure outlining the programme for a weekend seminar on Childrens Dentistry to be presented by the N.S.W. Branch at the Sydney Opera House on 18th & 19th April 1980. A successful meeting is anticipated and a cordial invitation is extended to all interstate dentists.

T.C. Mackay.

#### Tasmanian Branch

With the approach of the Tasmanian Convention in Hobart in February, 1980 and the involvement of some members in the organisation thereof, the Branch has not found it practical to hold formal meetings of the Society in the past few months and in fact does not intend to do so until after the Convention and the associated matters are fully concluded.

Frank Wimmer.

FROM THE JOURNALS by Fraser Gurling

GINGIVAL HYPERPLASIA from D.P.H.

Gingival hyperplasia is a common clinically detectable side effect of treatment with the anti-convulsant drug diphenylhydantoin (D.P.H.). Gingival hyperplasia can be inhibited or prevented if plaque deposition is reduced to low levels. The use of 2% chlorhexidine gluconate is shown to reduce plaque sufficiently to assist in the control of hyperplasia. (Staple P.H., et al J. Periodontol 49.6. 310-325 1978)

A higher collagen content is found in affected tissue but results not from an increase in collagen synthesis but from reduced degradation. The reduction in collagen break-down may result from reduced synthesis of collagenase, or from increased synthesis of tissue inhibitor of collagenase. Alternatively, D.P.H. may reduce the synthesis and/or release of lysosomal enzymes which have been shown to have collagenolytic activity. Hånström et al. suggest that D.P.H. may interfere with collagen degradation by blocking enzyme release from the cells (Hånström L. et al. Med. Biol. 57.3. 171-176 1979).

RHEUMATIC FEVER

Despite predictions that rheumatic fever is close to being eradicated it remains an important disease of childhood. Post mortem examination of older patients with no history of recognizable rheumatic fever often show minor valve pathology and chordal thickening. The disease in childhood is commonly mild or even subclinical and may be confused with influenza and other viral illnesses.

Rheumatic fever can be prevented if penicillin is administered within the first nine days of a streptococcal throat infection. Penicillin started two weeks after infection does not prevent the disease in susceptible individuals.

The commonest lesions (70%) are mitral stenosis and mitral regurgitation and these are both more common in females. Aortic regurgitation or stenosis (40%) is more frequently seen in men. The tricuspid valve (10%) and the pulmonary valve (2%) are less commonly involved. (Clarke M. Medicine

20 995-1001 Aug. 1979).

Infective endocarditis is relatively rare after dental extraction in susceptible people, occurring perhaps once in 500, but because of the high mortality of endocarditis prophylactic antibiotics are still required. Because the incidence is even lower after scaling and restorative work and because of a possible allergic response to penicillin it is difficult to justify a cover unless the patient also has gingivitis or an apical infection. However, infective endocarditis still has a mortality rate of about 30% in spite of antibiotic treatment. (Hamer J. et al. Medicine 20 1030-1033 Aug. 1979).

PSEUDO-CUSHING SYNDROME CAUSED BY ALCOHOL IN BREAST MILK

In infancy the combination of an increased rate of gain in weight with a decreased growth rate points to the possibility of Cushing syndrome. Clinically the disorder presents with typical moon-shaped facial appearances, excessive weight and shortness of stature. Confirmatory studies include absence of the thymic shadow on chest radiograph, impaired suppressibility of cortisol secretion by dexamethasone and increased excretion of free cortisol in urine.

In order to "promote milk production" a mother consumed at least 50, 12 ounce cans of beer weekly, plus generous amounts of other more concentrated alcoholic drinks. A random sample of the mother's expressed breast milk contained 100mg/100ml of alcohol.

The mother, on request, abstained from alcohol and continued breast feeding. The infant's rate of growth promptly increased and the appearance gradually returned to normal. The infant was reported as sleeping less soundly.

The article illustrates that examination of infants should include an awareness of normal growth and development so that appropriate referrals could be arranged where abnormalities are detected.

(Binkiewicz A., J. Pediatrics 93.6. 965-967 1978).

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of DENTISTRY for the HANDICAPPED.

5th International Congress, Jerusalem, Israel. July 6-11, 1980.

Members will have seen in the A.D.A. Federal Newsletter notice of the 5th Congress of the Association to be held in Jerusalem in July 1980.

It is to be hoped that many Australians will attend this Meeting, as previous Congresses held in Amsterdam, Stockholm, and London have had good Australian representation including speakers at each Meeting. It is hoped that once again we shall have at least one paper presented by an Australian.

The themes for the Meeting are -

1. Dental considerations in endocrine and metabolic diseases.
2. A Dental Department as part of general hospital services.
3. Outstanding clinical solutions to the problems of handicapped patients.
4. Public health services to the handicapped and the education of professional manpower.

The Council and Scientific Committee are anxious to have papers from as many countries as possible. Abstracts of 200 words in English are required by the Programme Committee not later than the 30th November, 1979. As this Newsletter will not have reached you by the closing date, it is essential that Members wishing to present a paper contact Dr. R.K. Hall by telephone and forward the abstract to Dr. Hall as soon as possible.

In addition to the Scientific Programme there will be a visit to the Hadassah School of Dentistry and to Institutions for the handicapped. Socially a folklore for those accompanying delegates, a visit to arts and crafts centres in Jerusalem, a kibbutz, and a shopping tour in the Bazaars of Jerusalem.

Further details are available from:

Dr. R.K. Hall, who is a Councillor of I.A.D.H.,  
c/o The Department of Dentistry,  
Royal Children's Hospital,  
Flemington Road,  
PARKVILLE. Victoria 3052

Telephone: 03 347-5522 Ext.357

Members of A.S.D.C. wishing to become members of I.A.D.H. (Subscription Can adian \$5.70) may obtain application forms from Dr.Hall. Membership entitles a reduced Registration fee for the International Congresses.

"FROM THE JOURNALS" ---

In the absence of John Brown overseas we are indebted to Fraser Gurling (S.A. Branch) who handled this item at very short notice.

Editor.

The production of this Newsletter has been assisted by Colgate Palmolive Pty. Ltd.